

This listing of claims will replace the originally filed claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-10 (canceled)

Claim 11 (new): A plate-type heat exchanger comprising:

- i) at least one stacked dividing plate with a roughly uniform thickness (e);
- ii) at least one passage between said plate(s);
- iii) at least one fin in the first passage, and
wherein the ratio of the minimum thickness (e') of each said fin to the thickness (e) of each said dividing plate(s) is greater than about 0.8.

Claim 12 (new): The exchanger according to Claim 11, wherein said ratio is greater than about 1.

Claim 13 (new): The exchanger according to Claim 12, wherein said ratio is greater than about 1.5.

Claim 14 (new): The exchanger according to Claim 13, wherein said ratio is greater than about 2.

Claim 15 (new): The exchanger according to Claim 11, wherein the thickness (e) of each said dividing plate(s) ranges from about 0.6 mm to about 2 mm.

Claim 16 (new): The exchanger according to Claim 11, wherein said dividing plate(s) is flat and rectangular.

Claim 17 (new): The exchanger according to Claim 11, wherein said fin is produced by extrusion.

Claim 18 (new): The exchanger according to Claim 11, wherein said fin is produced by machining.

Claim 19 (new): A plate-type heat exchanger comprising:

- i) at least one stacked dividing plate with a roughly uniform thickness (e);
- ii) at least two passages between said plate(s);
- iii) at least two additional fins in this passage, and
wherein the ratio of the minimum thickness (e') of each said fin to the thickness (e) of each said dividing plate(s) is smaller than about 0.8.

Claim 20 (new): An air separation apparatus comprising:

- i) at least one column;
- ii) at least one heat exchanger which further comprises:
 - a) at least one stacked dividing plate with a roughly uniform thickness (e);
 - b) at least one passage between said plate(s);
 - c) at least one fin in the first passage, and

wherein the ratio of the minimum thickness ($\underline{e'}$) of each said fin to the thickness (\underline{e}) of each said dividing plate(s) is greater than about 0.8.

Claim 21 (new): The apparatus according to Claim 20, wherein said apparatus further comprises:

- iii) an additional column.

Claim 22 (new): The exchanger according to Claim 11, wherein said exchanger may be utilized for reheating and vaporizing oxygen or an oxygen-rich fluid.

Claim 23 (new): The exchanger according to Claim 11, wherein oxygen comprises more than about 60% of the total feed gas of said exchanger.